INDUSTRY PROFILES

Agricultural Industry

July 2010

Government of Alberta
Employment and Immigration

Overview:

The Agricultural industry[1] in Alberta includes a variety of establishments or services:

- farms, orchards, greenhouses, nurseries and other places that grow crops, plants or trees;
- ranches, farms, feedlots and other places that raise animals, produce animal products or fatten animals;
- fishing and trapping activities; and
- agricultural support services such as planting, harvesting or management.

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[1] North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) groups 111, 112, 114, 1151 and 1152

Section A: Business Environment

1. 2009 Employment and Unemployment Numbers and Rates:

	Alberta	Agricultural Industry
Number of employed	1,988,100	55,300
Percent employed in the industry		2.8%
Number of unemployed	139,700	N/A
Unemployment rate	6.6%	N/A

Data Source: Labour Force Historical Review 2009, Statistics Canada
Note: N/A is reported in instances of insufficient sample size.

For more information on employment numbers or for a historical comparison, please go to the Labour Force Statistics[2] or Statistics Canada[3] websites.

2. Industry Growth:

- Employment in the Agricultural industry is expected to grow on average 3.8% annually from 2010 to 2013.
- Approximately 8,300 jobs will be created between 2010 and 2013. Employment is expected to increase to 63,600 by 2013.
- This industry is expected to provide 4.7% of all new jobs in Alberta between 2010 and 2013.

For more information, see the Alberta Modified Canadian Occupational Projection System (COPS) Outlook 2009 – 2013, Industry Employment Outlook[4] online and the Alberta Learning Information Service (ALIS)[5] website's industry descriptions.

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[2] See http://www.employment.alberta.ca/BI/67.html
[3] See http://www.statcan.gc.ca
[4] See http://www.employment.alberta.ca/documents/LMI/LMI-LMF_2009-13_cops.pdf
[5] See http://www.alis.alberta.ca

Trends and Outlook

According to Statistics Canada's National Economic Accounts, the Agricultural industry accounted for approximately 2.5% of Alberta's Gross Domestic Product in 2009, down from 3.6% in 1999. Its contribution to Alberta's total employment declined from 5.3% in 1999 to 2.8% in 2009.

Employment in 2009 was 9.3% lower than its level in 2008. Over the last ten years, employment has decreased from 82,000 people in 1999 to 55,300 people in 2009. The proportion of youth aged 15 to 24 years employed in the industry declined from 15.0% in 1999 to 8.7% in 2009 while the proportion of employees aged 55 years and over increased from 31.1% in 1999 to 43.2% in 2009.

Recovery in grain prices on world markets, export diversification to the fast-growing Asian markets and increased value-added food and agri-product processing are expected to spur growth in the industry in the next few years.

The *Alberta Occupational Demand Outlook 2009-2013* projects below average labour demand growth in the Agriculture and horticulture workers occupations.

3. Size of Businesses in Alberta and the Industry:

Establishment Size	Alberta's Businesses		Agricultural Businesses	
	Number of Employees	%*	Number of Employees	%*
Less than 20 employees	561,300	34.3%	7,600	68.5%
20 to 99 employees	582,500	35.6%	3,000	27.0%
100 to 500 employees	298,700	18.3%	N/A	N/A
Over 500 employees	194,000	11.9%	N/A	N/A

Data Source: Labour Force Historical Review 2009, Statistics Canada

* Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Note: N/A is reported in instances of insufficient response.

Note: Statistics Canada's survey methodology for determining establishment size differs from the one it uses in the Labour Force Survey to determine total employment. As a result, the number of employees by establishment size will not be the same as total employment in the industry, except by coincidence.

Section B: Human Resources Profile

1. Occupational Information:

Some examples of occupations in the Agriculture industry include:

- farm worker;
- dairy producer;
- greenhouse operator;
- animal care attendant; and
- beekeeper.

For a complete listing of all occupations related to this industry as well as detailed information on education and skill requirements, visit the Alberta Occupational Profiles[6] website.

2. Demographics: Age and Gender:

According to the Labour Force Survey, the gender breakdown in the Agricultural industry is as follows:

- women employed: 15,200 people, or 27.5%
- men employed: 40,100 people, or 72.5%

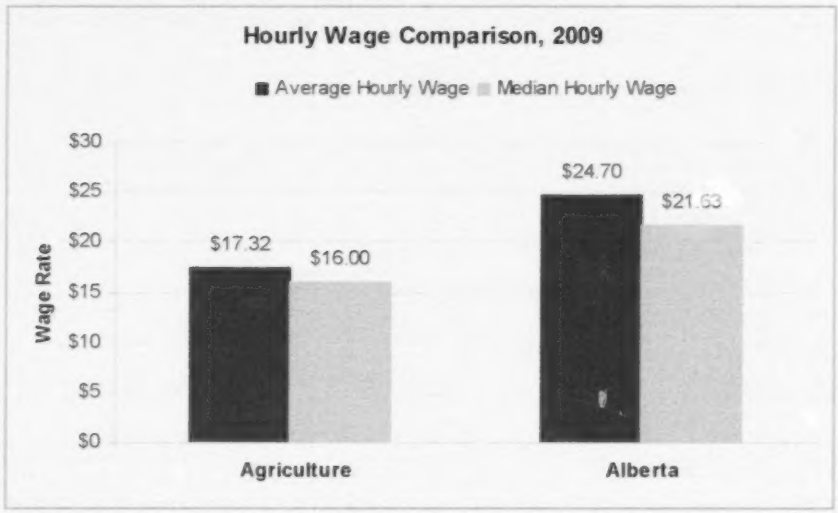
In Alberta, women accounted for 45.4% and men made up 54.6% of total employment.

Age Characteristics	Alberta Employees		Agricultural Employees	
	Number	%	Number	%
15-24 years	316,400	15.9%	4,800	8.7%
25-54 years	1,356,400	68.2%	26,600	48.1%
55 years and over	315,300	15.9%	23,900	43.2%

Data Source: Labour Force Historical Review 2009, Statistics Canada

[6] See http://www.alis.alberta.ca/occinfo

3. Wages:



Data Source: Labour Force Historical Review 2009, Statistics Canada
Note: The average hourly wage is obtained by dividing the sum of the wages of all the employees by the total number of employees. The median hourly wage is that wage below which half the employees earn and above which half the employees earn.

Wage and Salary Information for Selected Occupations

Occupation	Average Hourly Wage			Average Annual Salary
	Starting Average	Overall Average	Top Average	
Agricultural representative, consultant and specialist	$ 24.11	$ 29.15	$ 35.86	$ 61,246
General farm worker	$ 14.18	$ 16.31	$ 18.87	$ 37,141
Farmers and farm managers (beekeeper)	$ 16.25	$ 21.34	$ 24.82	$ 50,770
Farm supervisors and specialized livestock workers (Swine technician)	$ 16.46	$ 19.25	$ 22.61	$ 36,931

Data Source: 2009 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey

For information on wages, refer to the WAGEinfo[7] website. For job descriptions, duties, required skills and education requirements for specific occupations in the Agricultural industry, visit the ALIS[8] website.

[7] See http://www.alis.alberta.ca/wageinfo
[8] See http://www.alis.alberta.ca

Section C: Additional Information

1. Links to Selected Industry Associations:

- Alberta Agricultural Economics Association (http://aaea.ab.ca)
- Alberta Barley Commission (http://www.albertabarley.com)
- Alberta Chicken Producers (http://www.chicken.ab.ca)
- Alberta Milk Producers (http://www.albertamilk.com)
- Agriculture and Food Council (http://www.agfoodcouncil.com)
- Alberta Pork (http://www.albertapork.com)
- Canada Beef Export Federation (http://www.cbef.com)
- Alberta Farm Fresh Producers Association (http://www.albertafarmfresh.com)
- Canadian Wheat Board (http://www.cwb.ca)

2. Link to Government Library Database:

http://www.servicelink.gov.ab.ca/libraries/workplace